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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

State Dept. review completed

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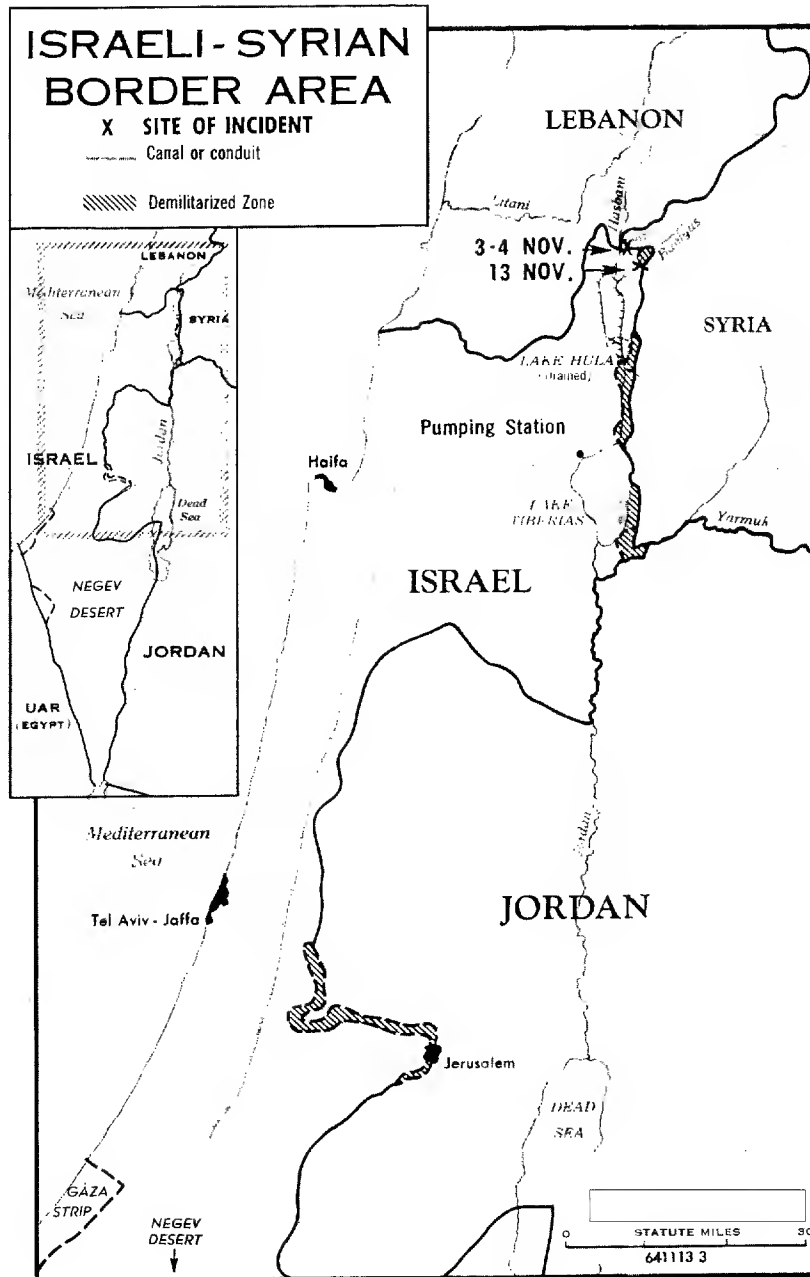
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DAILY BRIEF

Israel-Syria: Yesterday's clash along the Israeli-Syrian border was the heaviest engagement in more than two years.

According to the Israelis, the incident began when the Syrians opened fire on an Israeli patrol. By the time United Nations observers on the scene succeeded in negotiating a cease-fire, tanks, heavy artillery and Israeli aircraft had been involved. An Israeli Army spokesman stated that the planes attacked Syrian border positions which had shelled Israeli settlements.

The Israelis claim to have destroyed two Syrian tanks. The Syrians have admitted seven dead and 26 wounded. Tempers are aroused and any new flare-up probably would result in increasingly serious fighting.

This is the first major clash since the recent formation of the United Arab Command. There is no evidence that any joint action is planned against the Israelis in reaction to this incident, but the command presumably has alerted other Arab forces. Egypt's capability for any large-scale action against Israel is seriously reduced by its involvement in Yemen.

The Jordan waters dispute did not have any direct bearing on the clash, but sensitivity on both sides over this issue may have contributed to tensions. The tributaries the Arab states have threatened to divert are near the site of the fighting.

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Egypt: In a major speech on 12 November, directed primarily to the home audience, Nasir defended his domestic and foreign policies and emphasized Egypt's close relationship and dependence on the Soviet bloc.

Nasir emphasized that Soviet aid is increasing and favorably compared Soviet "low-cost" loans with the West's high interest rates. US aid, he suggested, was a bribe to dissuade him from foreign ventures. The Egyptian President claimed that relations with the US are good, but stressed his differences with the US over Israel and Congo policy.

While affirming his desire for good relations with Britain, he reiterated his intention to force the British out of the Arabian Peninsula and to eliminate foreign bases from the Near East, mentioning Aden, Cyprus, and Libya.

In a further gesture toward the USSR, Nasir announced that Egyptian Communists had recently been released from prison, just as capitalists and other reactionaries had been freed earlier.

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West Germany: [There is growing support in Bonn for an early German decision on unified grain prices, and the Germans have apparently accepted some delay in the MLF.]

[Erhard authorized Adenauer, during the latter's trip to Paris this week, to intimate that a favorable French position on the recently announced Erhard Plan for European political union would help Erhard come to grips with the grain price problem. Adenauer was apparently unsuccessful in ascertaining De Gaulle's position on the Erhard Plan, but an effort is being made in Bonn to prepare the ground domestically so that the Germans can agree to a grain price on 15 December.]

[The Bundestag leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Rainer Barzel, however, says that the government is in for a rough time with the farmers and the coalition Free Democratic Party. In his appeal to these groups, Erhard wants to be able to say that the future of Europe is at stake, but this tactic will require a favorable French attitude on his European plan.]

[Adenauer was also authorized to mention to De Gaulle that recent developments, particularly the new British proposals, had removed the element of urgency from the signing of the MLF. Barzel and Minister Westrick in the chancellery have emphasized to US representatives that the CDU communiqué of 11 November should not be interpreted as a change in German policy on the MLF. The new British proposals would inevitably bring about some delay in signing an agreement, and Barzel believes a

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month or so of relaxation on this subject would permit a better atmosphere for dealing with the grain price question.]

[A prominent CDU leader has acknowledged, however, that Adenauer's remarks to De Gaulle may have been sufficiently ambiguous to give the French the impression that the Germans would "put the MLF on ice, perhaps indefinitely." He thought that, if the MLF issue were presented to the CDU squarely, and the force comes under heavy attack from Adenauer and others, the decision would depend "quite a lot" on the defense Erhard and Schroeder put un.]

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NOTES

USSR--UN: [Foreign Minister Gromyko told Ambassador Kohler on 11 November that the USSR's position on the Article 19 question is "unchanged." Kohler received the impression that Gromyko's attitude toward further informal talks with Secretary Rusk and possibly his attendance at the General Assembly might be affected by the outcome of the Article 19 question. Gromyko contrasted the new Soviet leaders' avowed intention to continue improving US-Soviet relations with the US position on Article 19 which, he said, could "only result in increased tensions."]

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Brazil: Tension over military investigations into subversion in Goias State may bring a showdown between federal and state authorities in the next few days. The government claims to have new evidence linking Mauro Borges, the leftist governor of Goias, and many state officials with Communist activities. The charges against Borges already have strained relations between the Castello Branco administration and the powerful Social Democratic Party, and any attempt to oust the governor, however justified, would add to the growing concern among politicians over alleged undue military influence in political matters.

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